

1 September 1955

Dear Admiral Dufek:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16 August 1955 in which you indicate a priority requirement of the OCB Working Group for the preparation of an NIS on Antarctica as a basis for policy decisions relating to negotiations bearing on the existing or potential rights of this Government in that Area. You further state that such a Survey should encompass the history, geography, and economic value of Antarctica as a guide in coming to some decision as to (a) the most valuable areas of the continent and (b) the legal positions of various countries vis-a-vis claims to parts of Antarctica.

This matter has been laid before the NIS Committee which held meetings on 23 and 30 August 1955 to consider it. The Committee has reached decision to accord priority to this requirement to a degree necessary to complete the NIS on Antarctica by early next year.

The NIS elements which appear to the Committee to have bearing on this matter, and which will be produced under this requirement, are: a) Chapter II (Military Geography, including weather and coastal hydrography) to be produced by Navy. b) Chapter V (Political) and Chapter VI (Economic) to be produced by State. c) Chapter IX (Map and Chart Appraisal) to be produced by CIA. and d) an NIS Gazetteer to be produced by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. There will also be prepared the necessary NIS base maps adapted from new Hydrographic Office charts now in preparation.

I should appreciate being informed in the event you consider this statement of requirement is deficient in any respect.

Sincerely yours,

ONI review(s)
completed.

[Redacted Signature]

Chairman, NIS Committee

STAT

Rear Admiral George Dufek,
USN (Ret)
Chairman, OCB Antarctic
Working Group

Orig & 1 - Addressee
NIS Comm members
Chap IX Coordinator

DOCUMENT NO.
RECEIVED
X
OCT 11 1955
NAVY
ACTING SECRETARY
104 NOV 1 1955

[Redacted Box]

STAT

Orig corres filed "Antarctica"